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DEMING, NEW MEXICO, MAY 15, 1914.

NEED OF FIRE PROTECTION

Hardly anyone will deny, it is to be supposed, that Deming needs fire protection. Most persons are positive that the beautiful little city, the pride of the Mimbres Valley, has never had this protection and they cite the numerous destructive fires of recent years and years ago to prove the assertion. Those who have followed the matter with some degree of interest are, at this moment, doubtful if the city is to receive the much needed protection, and you can't blame them in the light of past record.

Who is to be blamed for the condition? The board of trustees at a recent meeting censured the water company; the citizens have raised their voices against both the board of trustees and the water company. It is doubtful, however, if an unprejudiced observer would condemn either.

The citizens themselves are to blame.

The citizens will be to blame for any future misfortune.

It is up to the citizens to ameliorate the condition.

The matter of fire protection is an involved one, as the board of trustees decided at the meeting Tuesday evening when it was brought up for discussion. They found, after a careful reading of the ordinance granting the water franchise to the Deming Real Estate and Improvement Company, that the water company is bound to conditions which, with the present equipment, it never can fulfill, and which would possibly not be desirable if it could. The company agrees to furnish seventy-five pounds of pressure to throw a 50-foot stream of water from the ends of three lines of two and one-half inch hose equipped with half-inch nozzles, but only in case of fire. This is far more pressure than is needed, and probably would prove destructive to the plumbing of the city if provided. Anyway, the present water equipment will not produce this pressure from the 75-foot standpipe. For a city situated in a flat country this system is no practicable, and has been discarded everywhere.

At the present time, Deming enjoys one of the best domestic water supplies in the world, and the water is served cheaper to consumers here than in any of the towns surrounding Deming, some of whom have natural water supplies which produce pressure by gravity from natural elevations. If the water company is forced to make good on this obsolete system, the cost of pumping into a large standpipe is going to be great, and the consumers must pay more for the water.

The board of trustees voted to serve notice on the water company to begin the construction of larger mains in the business district, within fifteen days with a force of not less than ten men, and the work to be prosecuted to completion within ninety days. The penalty for delay is provided in the franchise to be at the rate of \$10 a day until the terms of the franchise are fully met and the forfeiture of the franchise. Meanwhile the revenue to the water company from hydrant rental will be cut off.

The measure is based on inadequate information, or lack of information. The board was told that the present 4-inch main on Gold avenue could not possibly produce the water required in case of fire. The board was solemnly assured that an auxiliary could not be supplied with sufficient water through this main, another statement which any hydraulic engineer would readily disapprove.

When the discussion of the board opened, it was at once proposed to take away the franchise from the water company and vote bonds for the construction of a new waterworks to be owned by the city. Investigation, however, showed that the city could only vote on such a proposal at a regular election which is almost two years from date. This course was, therefore abandoned as offering no immediate relief. A proposal to put down wells and equip them with pumps in the business district was turned down, because the city treasury is practically empty. In fact, the board found that their power to act in the matter is quite limited, and it was decided to put the whole thing up to the water company and penalize it for failure to make good according to the provisions of the franchise. Since the water company can't reasonably make good on the franchise, and since the city cannot vote bonds for two years, it would seem that a Gordian knot has been tied. Any measures taken must provide against the loss of a water supply to the city for domestic use.

It seems fairly certain that a little water pressure would have obviated the property loss by fire Saturday night of \$100,000, only slightly more than half covered by insurance. This would pay for a pretty good water system, and buy a lot of fire equipment, which, in turn, would lower the insurance rate. It is possible, too, that a hand grenade or small extinguisher, used when the fire was first discovered, would have smothered the flames. But neither water nor chemical was at hand, and the fire had its way.

At the time the fire broke out there was fifty feet of water, according to water company officers, in the standpipe. This, of course, could not produce sufficient pressure, but in a few minutes after the hose was connected, the motors, which serve the centrifugal pumps producing 1,200 gallons of water a minute each, were started. In case of fire, the standpipe is generally cut off and the pumps turned directly into the mains. This, however, without an auxiliary, will not give the pressure required by the franchise. Neither would the standpipe full produce this pressure.

To add to the difficulties it was discovered that, when the fire Saturday night started, Southwestern trainmen were drawing a 3-inch stream of water from the mains into tank cars for shipment. They were called upon to stop but refused until the sheriff went to the scene and compelled obedience. This well illustrates the weakness of the water company to compel regulation when not backed by the police power through ordinances. Sprinklers on lawns over the city were also running, and, it is possible, much more water was being withdrawn than is known.

There were five hose lines, instead of three, which were connected when the fire broke out. Instead of half-inch nozzles some of them were twice the size, and there were, according to spectators, numerous leaks in the hose lines.

In most cities a high tension power line, carrying 13,000 volts, would not be allowed to pass down the main business street, yet that is the case in Deming. Worse, this power line was on the same side of the street as the buildings which burned Saturday night. Worst of all, the power line was the only one which served the waterworks motors, and when the wires went down there was no possibility of getting water. Who is to blame for this?

All of these fatal difficulties could have been prevented through the most ordinary of regulations, promulgated by the water company and backed by the full police power, as is done in every other city of any importance. It is noticeable that, in the larger cities, the citizens scarcely breathe while the firemen are fighting the battle for the community. In many places, where the pressure is direct from the mains, as in the Holly system, the domestic lines are cut off during fires.

A casual examination of the present fire equipment of Deming shows that it is worthless for any practical purposes. If it had been otherwise, the fire of Saturday night would have caused little damage. The fire was discovered in its early stages, a little flame and little smoke, and the fire apparatus was distant less than half a block. If the equipment, however, had been first-class it probably would not have been used effectually, be-

cause it is nobody's business to use it, and as the old saw has it, "What's everybody's business is nobody's business." At present there is no system of general fire alarm. Such a system would serve as a notification to stop unnecessary use of water during the course of fires.

It is doubtful, at this time, if the citizens would agree to vote \$100,000 worth of bonds for a new waterworks if they could, because the expenditure of \$5,000, or less, would give the same amount of fire protection through the use of an auxiliary. The investment now in the present plant is \$50,000 and it is just beginning to pay a small interest on this amount. It would not pay interest on a larger amount. Added capitalization would mean the increasing of the cost of water for domestic purposes which is now cheap, abundant, and pure.

The city officers and the water officers must get together and work the matter out under the present conditions. Deming can be protected, and without a very great expenditure, either by the city or the company. The principal thing is for the citizens to fix the responsibility and exact an accounting.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES

Washington.—President Wilson will abide by the Democratic caucus action in abandoning rural credits legislation at this session of congress. Representative Glass of Virginia, chairman of the banking and currency committee, conferred with the President Tuesday and explained that in his opinion the federal reserve bank act will extend credit aggregating \$500,000,000 on farm lands.

Washington.—Administration anti-trust bills were sharply criticized Monday before the senate interstate commerce committee by officials representing 150,000 miles of railroad in the country. They protested most vigorously against the provisions aimed at interlocking directorates and stock ownership by one common carrier of another, and against the proposed delegation of supervisory power to the Interstate Commerce commission of future issues of securities.

Vera Cruz.—From Mexico City come late reports of large numbers of men and boys drilling in the streets. A few nights ago a mob gathered before the Brazilian legation and demanded that Luis D'Antin, an attaché of the American embassy, who had taken refuge there, be delivered over. Threats were made to kill him.

El Paso.—Gen. Emiliano Zapata will not enter Mexico City until the capital shall have been occupied by General Villa's troops and General Carranza, first chief of the Constitutional army, shall have established himself at Chapultepec, according to a statement Tuesday by Roberto V. Pesqueira, confidential agent of General Carranza here.

Catania, Sicily.—Official reports late Saturday give 125 dead and 283 injured as the known casualties resulting from a violent earthquake, followed by fire, which raged a dozen towns on the slopes of Mount Etna Friday night. It was reported that a volcanic eruption accompanied the earthquake. Government officials and local authorities have organized measures of relief to dig the dead and injured out of the ruins, provide hospital facilities for the injured, and care for the homeless and orphans.

Para, Brazil.—In an interview with the New York American Colonel Roosevelt bitterly attacks President Wilson's proposed surrender to the British on the Panama canal tolls.

Colonel Roosevelt also attacks the proposed treaty by which the United States apologizes to Colombia, and gives her \$25,000,000 in settlement of the Panama Canal controversy. He insists on coupling the two issues, and considers the administration policy infamous.

London, England.—When ten of thousands of armed volunteers are drilling in Ulster with the avowed purpose of resisting with force any attempt to make Irish home rule effective, it is but natural that one would ask: "Where is the British army?" There is but one apparent answer to that question.

The British army is in sullen and in sulking revolt.

It has not openly rebelled against its government, but many of its officers have refused to obey orders, have attempted to obtain promises from the government as conditions of their obeying orders, and have allied themselves clearly and certainly with the Unionist party. According to Unionist testimony, this rebellious attitude is shared by the men in the ranks, who also swear that they will mutiny before they will draw a trigger in the coercion of Ulster.

Trinidad, Colo.—The time limit within which all persons in the strike district are commanded to give up their arms expired at 5 o'clock Wednesday. Colonel James Lockert announced that a total of about 3,000 guns of all descriptions had been turned over to the federal troops. He said that he had received no orders to search for weapons, but that after 5 o'clock any arms found in possession of unauthorized persons would be confiscated.

Washington.—Evacuation of Tampico by the Mexican federal garrison began at 12:50 p. m. Wednesday according to a relayed wireless dispatch to the navy department from Rear Admiral Mayo. The federal troops were leaving by the railroad.

That the rebels encountered desperate resistance in their final attack on Tampico, and that they were compelled to carry their fight to the heart of the town, was indicated by Rear Admiral Mayo's report. He stated that at 1 o'clock this afternoon, when it was reported the rebels had occupied Tampico, there was heavy rifle firing in the plaza and that big gun firing continued.

The federals were retreating by way of the railroad leading to San Luis Potosi, and it was assumed they hoped to reach Parana, the terminus of a railway line that leads indirectly to Mexico City. The railroad out of Tampico to Monterey is held by the constitutionalists.

Vera Cruz.—More than 200 American refugees who arrived here from the capital, reported everything was quiet there when they left. They expressed the belief that the anti-American spirit had been only temporarily quieted, as they had seen numerous minor evidences of antipathy.

ONE DOLLAR

Will buy a certificate of Deposit in this bank. Save the dollars—deposit them regularly—and with each one drawing four per cent interest annually, you'll soon find that you will have a good sized bank account. And more than that—you will have acquired the Saving Habit—the one sure way to success.

The Bank of Deming

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\$50,000.00

We are open for business in the Chamber of Commerce and ready to handle all classes of business, the same as before the fire. Our friends and customers are invited to call.

You are invited to do your banking business here.

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It isn't what you earn that counts in a pinch; it's what you have saved and deposited subject to your call in the time of emergency.

One dollar will open a savings account here which will draw 4 per cent interest, compounded quarterly.

Make your deposit now, and watch your bank balance grow.

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